

REFORGER

RETURN OF FORCES TO GERMANY

by Arnold Meisner



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Front Cover

An "orange" or opposing force engineer unit moves into a small German town during REFORGER 84's CERTAIN FURY. Note the old "A CAV" shield on the M-113.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.

Back Cover

An M-60 tank is ferried across the Rhine River by the German Army during REFORGER 83'. The tank from the 1st Cavalry Division, Ft. Hood, TX, was the major stateside unit deploying in REFORGER 83'.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.

CERTAIN STRIKE EXERCISE AREAS

INTRODUCTION

REFORGER (RETURN OF FORCES TO GERMANY)

For the last twenty years the United States' commitment to the defense of Western Europe and in particular the defense of the territorial sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Germany has been embodied in a series of annual field training exercises commonly known as AUTUMN FORGE. To most Americans however this is all summed up in the name REFORGER. To many Americans they remember that REFORGER was when their uncle Charlie was sent along with his Army Reserve or National Guard unit over to Germany for maneuvers. No other entity has served to bring about the grass roots reality to the often abstract and more distant picture of America's military role on the European continent.

A good brief description of REFORGER is that taken directly from the "Official Press Guide" to the 1987 Autumn Forge Exercise.

"REFORGER (REturn of FORces to GERmany) is an annual exercise of strategic mobility and deployment that involves US Army, Navy and Air Force personnel in a joint effort to transport army combat support and combat service units from the United States to Europe and back. In addition to enhancing military training, the exercise demonstrates the continuing resolve of the United States to reinforce NATO military commands in a crisis situation. While in Europe, REFORGER units participate in the NATO sponsored field training exercise CERTAIN STRIKE with allied forces. REFORGER is designed to emphasize the United States' ability to transport combat forces by a combination of sealift and airlift to rapidly reinforce Central Europe. An important aspect of REFORGER is that the majority of the deploying units will draw much of their equipment from material prepositioned in Europe. This material, called POMCUS (prePOsitioned Material Configured to Unit Sets), is ready for use should reinforcement of Europe be directed."

It should be noted that in the above paragraph CERTAIN STRIKE is specifically the 1987 field training exercise. Each year the field training exercises have had different and individual names 1983 CONFIDENT ENTERPRISE, 1984 CENTRAL GUARDIAN, 1985 CERTAIN FURY, 1986 CERTAIN SENTINEL, 1988 CERTAIN CHALLENGE.

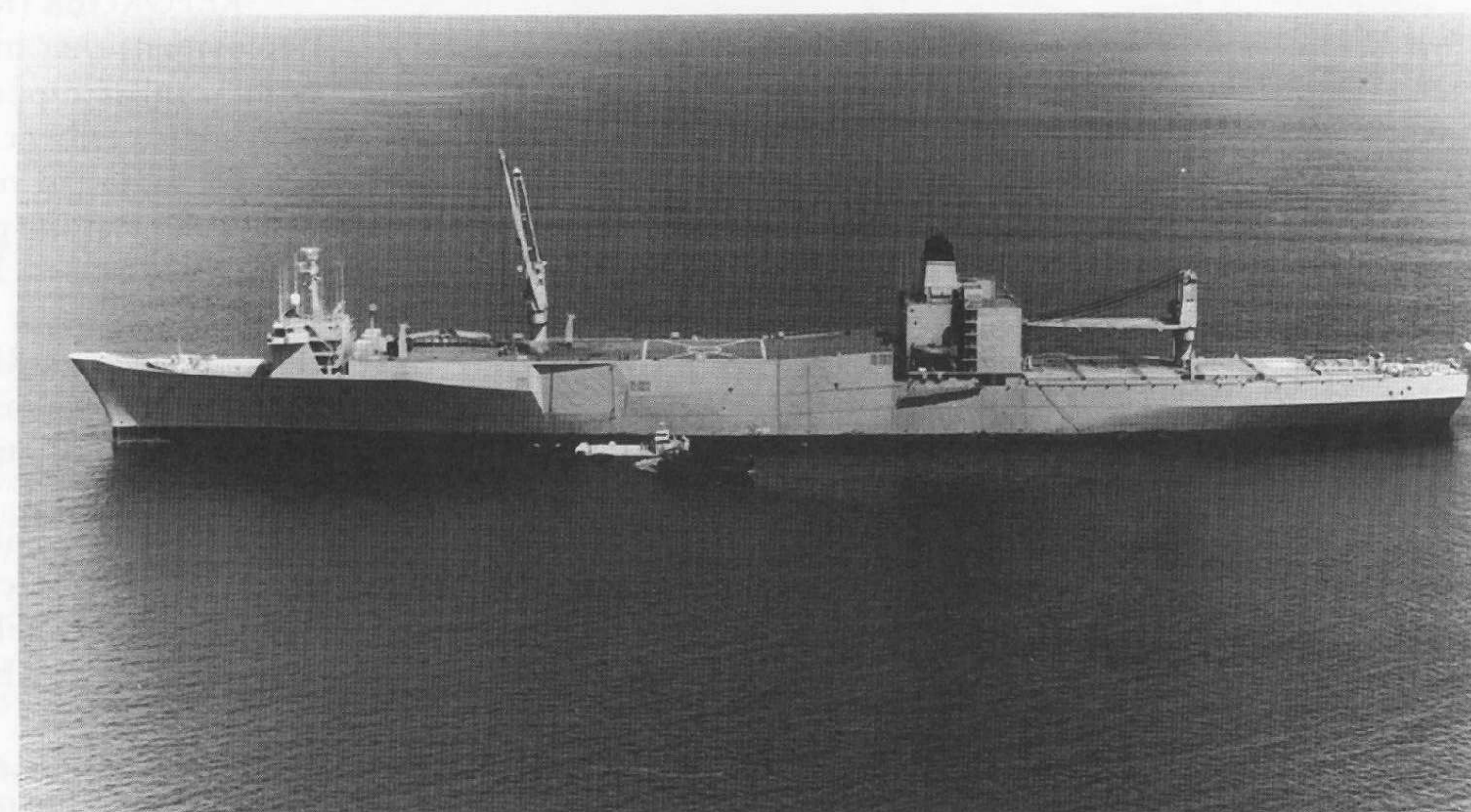
With the new relationship developing between the Soviet Union and the West much of REFORGER's future is in doubt. For many young Americans REFORGER was their first and in many cases only view of a European world. Far away from small town America.

STAGING AREA

Printed by TACIPRINT 1

SCALE 1:1000,000

NATO UNCLASSIFIED



▲ The Fast Sea Lift Ship U.S.N.S. Algol (T-AKR 287) along with her sister ship provide much of the sea lift capability for the reinforcement of NATO forces. Photo: DEFENSE IMAGE.

◀ An AH-64A Apache helicopter being loaded onto a ship at Beaumont, Texas, for shipment to REFORGER 1987. 1987 was the first time that the AH-64 was part of REFORGER.

Photo: McDONNELL DOUGLAS/DEFENSE IMAGE.



▲ Newly arrived units sort out their gear at Schipol Airport, during REFORGER 87'. Note the Army television team at the right hand side of the photo. Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

► The first U.S. troops to Arrive for REFORGER 87' at Schipol Airport, the Netherlands. The troops are lined in formation by the WORLD AIRWAYS Lockheed 1011 charter that brought them over. Photo: O. Butler/USAREUR/7th ARMY via DEFENSE IMAGE.





Troops prepare to move their M-998 High Mobility Multi Wheeled Vehicle off the pier after the ship off load activity during REFORGER 87' Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



▲ A truck gets a once over before heading out in convoy to the staging area during REFORGER 87'

Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

▲► A soldier of the 1st Cavalry Division directs a convoy through a small Dutch town on their way to the F.R.G. during REFORGER 87'.

Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

► U.S. Army vehicles lashed to the deck of U.S.N.S. ALGOL who with her sister ship the U.S.N.S. Antares provide much of the sealift capability of what was M.T.M.C. (Military Traffic Management Command) which has been subsequently incorporated into one of the new joint commands, and is now TRANSPORTATION COMMAND (TRANS. COM.). REFORGER 1987.

Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.





British vehicles gas up before moving out to their jump off points during the CERTAIN STRIKE FTX in 1987. Note the sign on the front of the lead vehicle "FAHRSCHULE" which means "DRIVING SCHOOL".
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

British vehicles wait at a rail head for transportation into the maneuver area. The British forces in the NORTHAG (Northern Army Group) area represent the major force in position to immediately oppose a Soviet offensive in the Northern Area. CERTAIN STRIKE 1987.

Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



A High Mobility Multi Wheeled Vehicle of the 2nd Armored Division on its way into the F.R.G. during REFORGER 87'. Note the soldier on the back with an M-60 Machine gun, the vehicle is also equipped with a TOW anti tank weapon. Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



The German Autobahn is an additional avenue of transport, here a Challenger tank is carried by transporter into position during CERTAIN STRIKE in 1987.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



▲ Dutch soldiers supervise as a U.S. M-88 recovery vehicle stands by in case it is needed during the Maas River crossing during the 1983 REFORGER Operation. It is the host nation's responsibility to provide security and support operations during the period that the forces are moving to the front.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.

◀ Spectators jam barricades during the 1983 REFORGER river crossing of the Maas river. Here a chaparral missile launcher in its travel configuration crosses to the East bank of the Maas.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.





▲ A British Challenger tank assumes a somewhat concealed position during CERTAIN STRIKE 1987.

Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

► Two British soldiers share cigarettes at the end of the day by their scout car. Part of the Queen's Irish Hussars the scout car is equipped with a winch for moderate maintenance needs. CERTAIN STRIKE 1987.

Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.





▲ A British Stalwart transport vehicle during CERTAIN STRIKE 1987. This was the first exercise since LIONHART in 1984 with major British participation. Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

▲► An M-113 APC of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment from Ft. Bliss, Texas crosses the Rhine River on a pontoon bridge that was built by the First Regiment of Engineers of the French Army. This was near the city of Speyer in West Germany. In recent years there has been a greater degree of French participation in the Autumn Forge series of exercises, this is part of CERTAIN CHALLENGE 1988.

Photo: O.Butler/U.S. Army via DEFENSE IMAGE.

► A British Tracked Rapier unit during CERTAIN STRIKE 1987. The Tracked Rapier is the primary British anti-air weapon in use in Germany. Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.





British paratroopers take a defensive posture in a German courtyard during exercise CERTAIN STRIKE. It is the job of the Paras to gain time for the heavier units and hold on until reinforcements arrive.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



M-1 Abrams main battle tanks of the 2nd Armored Division (Forward) at a staging area inside West Germany during CERTAIN STRIKE 1987. 2 AD (Forward) as it is known is part of the 2nd Armored Division that is permanently stationed in the F.R.G. and acts as a support to the 2nd Armored Div. upon its arrival in the European theater of operation.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



A long column of 2 AD Forward's M-1 Abrams main battle tanks await orders to move out of an assembly area during the 1987 FTX CERTAIN STRIKE. The tanks stowage racks are all fully loaded with gear and covered with tarpolins for fast road marches, however the troopers are still wearing just their BDU uniforms (Battle Dress Uniforms). When they get to the maneuver areas they will be wearing their MOPP gear protective clothing over their BDU's.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



Note the vehicle names on the sides of the turrets.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



▲► M-2 Bradley infantry fighting vehicles of the 2 AD Forward lined up in staging area. Note the names of the crew members for these vehicles on the top of the turret sides. These vehicles were not issued out of POMCUS.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

▲ A nice shot showing much stowage detail etc.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

► Note the unit patch of the 2 AD is worn on the left side of the chest above the heart and not on the left shoulder as with other U.S. Army units.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



◄▲ While the forces of the 2 AD Forward are permanently stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany the Forces of the 1st Cavalry are one of the major deploying units to be sent over. Here the M-1 Abrams MBT's of the 1st Cavalry Div. are lined up at one of their staging areas inside the F.R.G. These tanks unlike those of the 2 AD Forward were issued to the troops out of POMCUS upon their arrival.

Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

▲ A close up of a tanker of the 1st Cavalry Division. Note that he is wearing his MOPP (Military Oriented Protective Posture) gear over his BDU uniform.

◄ Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division Task Force 1-32 prepare to move out of their staging area at Rhine, F.R.G. during REFORGER 87'.

Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



▲ PFC Vincent Wilson, of the Second Battalion 29th Field Artillery Regiment, sets up an M-1 Column Meter after deploying to a new location, during exercise "Certain Challenge", a segment of the overall REFORGER 88' series of exercises.

Photo: U.S.Army/D.O.D. via DEFENSE IMAGE.

▲◀ LTC Paul Murrsy, Commander of the 167th Armored Battalion discusses the battle plan with his Commander, BG John C. Heldstab of the 2nd Armored Division (Fwd.) during exercise Certain Strike 1987, somewhere near Hohnhorst, West Germany.

Photo: O. Butler/OCPA/USAREUR/DEFENSE IMAGE.

◀ Sgt. Mathew Jones of the 541st Field Artillery Regiment, climbs into the driver's seat of the M-109-A3 Self Propelled Howitzer as his unit awaits the word to move to their new fire position during REFORGER 88.

Photo: U.S.Army/D.O.D. via DEFENSE IMAGE.



▲ German children play around a partially extended M-60 AVLB during REFORGER 88's "Certain Challenge".
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.

◀ Members of the 2AD Forward prepare to cross the Aller River in their M-998 High Mobility Multi Wheel Vehicle (HMMWV) during exercise CERTAIN STRIKE. The crossing of the Aller is in the vicinity of Wienhausen in the F.R.G.
Photo: O.Butler/USAREUR via DEFENSE IMAGE.



▲ Engineers from the 902nd Engineer Company from Ft. Belvoir, VA. launching a Ribbon Bridge during CERTAIN STRIKE's crossing of the Aller River. River crossings tend to have somewhat of a circus atmosphere about them. On the far bank the press can be seen climbing down from the Stalwart vehicles which were used to transport them about.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

▲► Soldiers from the 902nd Engineer Company, Ft. Belvoir, VA. assemble a bridge on the Aller River during exercise CERTAIN STRIKE.
Photo: O. Butler/USAREUR via DEFENSE IMAGE.

► U.S. Army Engineers launch an inflatable boat during one of REFORGER 87's river crossing operation on the Aller River.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.





▲ M-2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles of the 1st Cavalry Division cross the Aller River during exercise CERTAIN STRIKE.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

▲► Sgt.f.c Michael Morin of the 54th Engineer Battalion guides an M-1 Abrams MBT from the 2nd Armored Division across an AVLB laid down by the 54th, during exercise Certain Strike part of the 1987 REFORGER experience. This operation is located in the general vicinity of Celle, F.R.G.
Photo: O. Butler/USAREUR via DEFENSE IMAGE.

► A German Frogman during the CERTAIN STRIKE crossing of the Aller River. While the river crossing operation is a U.S. Army operation it is the host nation's responsibility to provide support activities.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.





▲ PV2 Don Click, Jr. of the 17th Engineer Company, Ft. Hood, TX. uses a mine detector to locate mines that might have been laid by the blue forces on a bridge over the Lachte River during exercise CERTAIN STRIKE, in the 1987 REFORGER series of exercises.

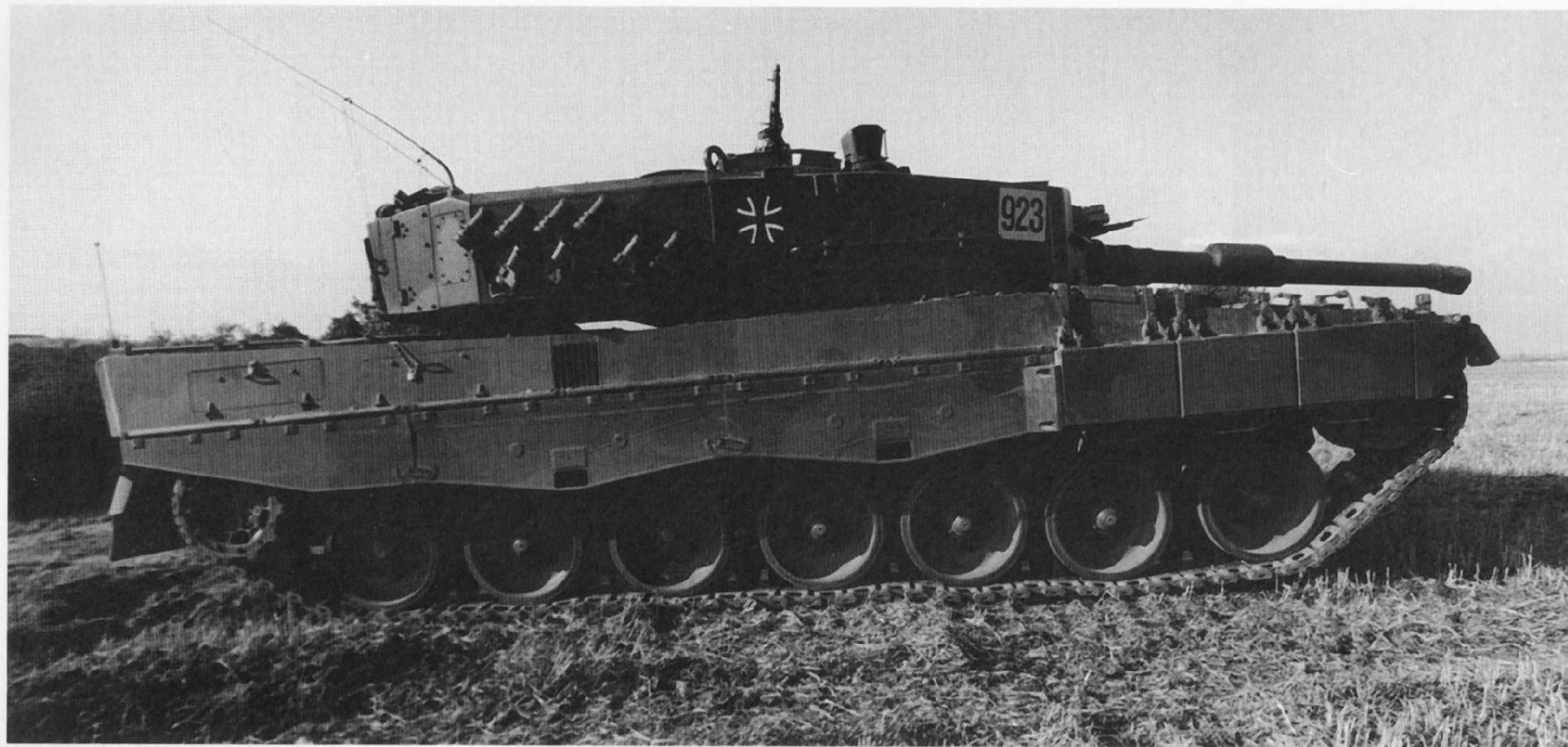
Photo: O. Butler/U.S.Army USAREUR/D.O.D. via DEFENSE IMAGE.

▲◀ A M-60A3 MBT of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Division, Ft. Bliss, TX. crosses a bridge during CERTAIN STRIKE.

Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

◀ M-1 Abrams MBT of the 1st. Cavalry Division during REFORGER 87'. This vehicle is typical of the many issued out of POMCUS. It is solid green and void of any camouflage or special markings.

Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



A German Leopard II tank sits on the crest of a ridge during CERTAIN CHALLENGE in September 1988. The Leopard II represents the best that the Bundeswehr has to offer. It is important not to lose sight of what the defense of the F.R.G. means to Germans. While REFORGER is for Americans a display of commitment, for West Germans it is their defense of their homeland.

Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



A good close up view of the front of the same Leopard II showing lots of detail.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.

The same vehicle as seen from the left side. Note the other Leopard II off in the distance.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



A good rear view of the same vehicle showing again lots of detail.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



A Hetzer Command Vehicle heads up a column of Leopard II tanks of the blue forces during the opening phase of CERTAIN CHALLENGE exercise. The CERTAIN CHALLENGE exercise had a great deal more free play for the units involved that had been present in previous years, and the tankers of the both sides took advantage of this. However the blue forces traditionally on the defensive during the opening phase of the exercise succeeded in gaining the offensive and made unprecedented gains against the orange forces even during the opening phase of the exercise.

Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



A column of Leopard II MBT's comes to a halt at the end of a day's maneuver.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.

While the Leopard II is West Germany's newest Main Battle Tank, the Leopard I is still the mainstay of the panzer force. A close up view of a Leopard I showing the camouflage nets and side accouterments during CERTAIN CHALLENGE.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.





A Marder with branches added as camouflage sits under a tree in a back yard. While American forces are forbidden from using natural camouflage on their vehicles the soldiers of the Bundeswehr are under no such limitations. CERTAIN CHALLENGE.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



A Canadian Air Force C-130 being serviced prior to being loaded with material for the flight into the Federal Republic of Germany during REFORGER 84'.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



The "Sea-Air interface" operation at the municipal airport at Antwerp during REFORGER 84'. U.S. Air Force C-130 aircraft and German Air Force C-160 aircraft are lined up waiting to be loaded with vehicles and equipment that have been off loaded from the transport ships in the harbor.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



A Royal Air Force Tornado during REFORGER 84' part of the Royal Air Force's commitment to the defense of European air space.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



A Harrier GR-3 in a "Hide" undergoes maintenance during REFORGER 84'. The British exercise LIONHART 84' was one of the largest British participations in recent years.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



A C-160 Transall of the West German Air Force lands in Germany after picking up its cargo in the Netherlands during the WINTERFORGE exercise of 1985. Note the non standard application of the yellow paint on the tail, cowlings, and wing tips.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



Challenger tanks of the Irish Hussars during CERTAIN STRIKE. The Irish Hussars are one of the top British armored units in the F.R.G.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



An M-113 APC of the 8th Infantry Division at a rail head off loading during WINTERFORGE 85'. Note the transparent protective enclosure to protect against the winter elements.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



Members of the 10th Infantry Division (Mountain) climb into trucks as they prepare to move into the exercise scenario after their arrival for REFORGER 88 and FTX CERTAIN CHALLENGE. This was the first time that elements of the recently activated 10th Infantry Division had been deployed outside the United States. The Division is part of 18th Airborne Corps, and as such is also part of the Army's Rapidly deployable forces.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters conducting a troop extraction operation during the abortive WINTERFORGE 86'. The weather and terrain were so unfavorable that year that the exercise was cancelled just as it was about to start.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



A tanker prepares his weapon as a long column of 1st Cavalry tanks are about to begin a long road march to the exercise area during REFORGER 87'.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



Troops of the 1st Cavalry Division relax after a hard day of maneuvering during REFORGER 87's CERTAIN STRIKE. The shot gives some idea of what it is like to be on the move all day and living in ones tank for an extended period of time. All the boxes in the "bustle" storage racks are MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) and are basically all that a tank crew has to eat while on the move.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



A German Leopard I camouflaged for winter operations during WINTERFORGE 85's CERTAIN SENTINEL.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



Leopard II MBT's after a long day's maneuver come to a halt to regroup and receive their nights warm dinner. The Leopard II is the newest and best of the Leopard series of MBT's.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



The Soviet member of the CDE Delegation talks to an American Army officer through an interpreter. The Soviet officer was a member of the Naval Infantry.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



M-1A1 MBT of the 3rd Infantry Division during CERTAIN CHALLENGE. The up gunned and armor added version of the M-1 represents the best vehicle that the U.S. Army has. Note the three tone NATO standard paint scheme.
Photo: Arnold Meisner / DEFENSE IMAGE.



A Marder on a MAN transporter sits in a court yard during CERTAIN CHALLENGE.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



A close up view of the Marder as in the above shot.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



Crewmen of a Dutch APC ready for action, during CERTAIN STRIKE. Both CERTAIN STRIKE, and CERTAIN CHALLENGE witnessed greater participation by Dutch Army units than had been seen in the past. Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



◀ German soldiers take time out of the exercise to clean up their MAN transporter during CERTAIN CHALLENGE.

Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.

▼ A Dutch M-109 is refueled in a forward field location, during CERTAIN STRIKE.

Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.





Dutch soldiers in the field during CERTAIN STRIKE.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



◀ A British Armored Vehicle during CERTAIN STRIKE. This was part of the British Armored Forces counter attack.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

▼ An M1-A1 Abrams MBT of the 3rd Infantry Division during CERTAIN CHALLENGE. This was the first exercise that featured the newest version of the M-1. Note the deployed hammerhead TOW missile launcher of the ITV (Improved TOW Vehicle) off in the background.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.





A close up view of M-1A1 MBT. The M1-A1's were all painted in the new NATO three tone standard camouflage scheme.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



The same M-1A1 seen from the other side.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



View of the vehicle commander, as seen from the
top of the turret. Note the fancy painted protective
tankers helmet.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



M-1 (IMPROVED) Abrams MBT's of the 11th ACR (Armored Cavalry Regiment) without a doubt the best tank unit stationed in the F.R.G. deploy on a road during one of the more spirited actions during CERTAIN CHALLENGE. The M-1 improved is an upgraded version of the standard M-1 without the up gunning of the M-1A1. Note the insignia on the turret side. Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



HMMWV of the 3rd Infantry DIV. One of the major changes in the U.S. Army is the appearance in large numbers of the new equipment. Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



The unit Commander takes an opportunity to size up the situation as his unit comes to a stop on the edge of a corn field. Note that real tankers are seldom without their maps.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



The same unit (11th ACR) as seen previously on 1985 FTX CENTRAL GUARDIAN. The 1985 exercise was one of the two recent WINTER REFORGER's. Note how the M-1's have sporadic chalk and white wash camouflaging. These vehicles are the older original M-1 Abrams MBT's.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



A M-2 Bradley crew after a hard day's maneuvering, during CERTAIN STRIKE.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



The newest combat vehicle to be deployed in Europe to have a major consequence is the MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System). Here a SPLL (Self Propelled Launcher Loader) is refueled in the cover of the tree line during CERTAIN CHALLENGE. Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



The ammunition transport vehicles for the MLRS stand ready to move deep inside the German woods. The MLRS units fundamental tactics dictate fire and movement. CERTAIN STRIKE. Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



Two M-577 Command vehicles await orders to move to a new location. This is the TOC (Tactical Operations Center) for the MLRS artillery unit. CERTAIN STRIKE.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



Exhausted a tanker tries to clean up a bit after working on repairs to his M-60A3 during exercise CERTAIN CHALLENGE. Note that the vehicle is completely missing its left set of treads.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



Note that a M-88 Recovery Vehicle is now on the scene. CERTAIN CHALLENGE.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



An overall view of an M-88 Recovery Vehicle, a real heavy duty workhorse of the Army. CERTAIN CHALLENGE.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



Another view of an M-88 this time from HQ Co. 2/66 Armor, 2 AD Forward, from CERTAIN STRIKE.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



The by now almost legendary Sgt. Perry and his flag. The photo of Sgt. Perry and his flag was picked up by many newspapers and was well publicized during CERTAIN STRIKE.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



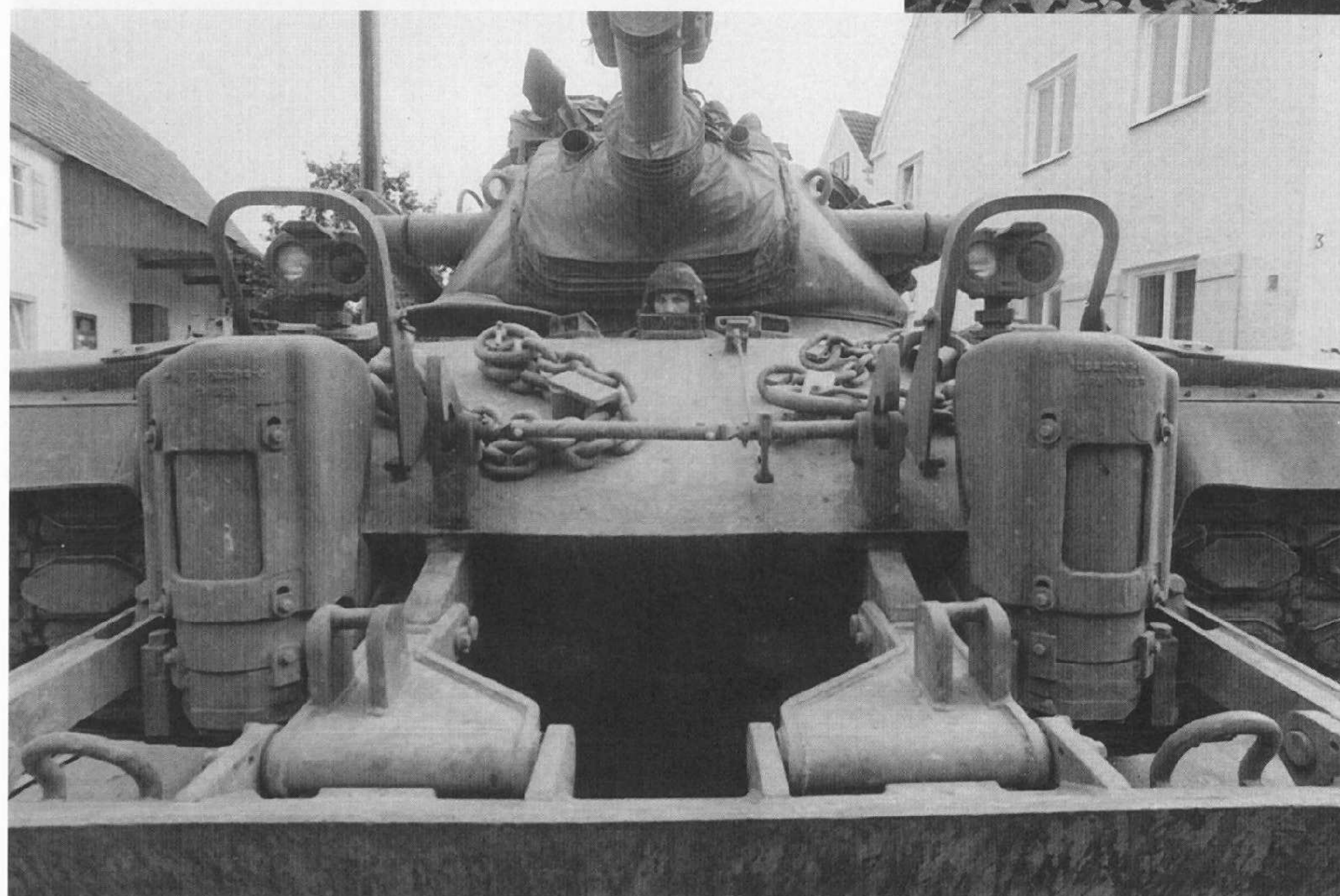
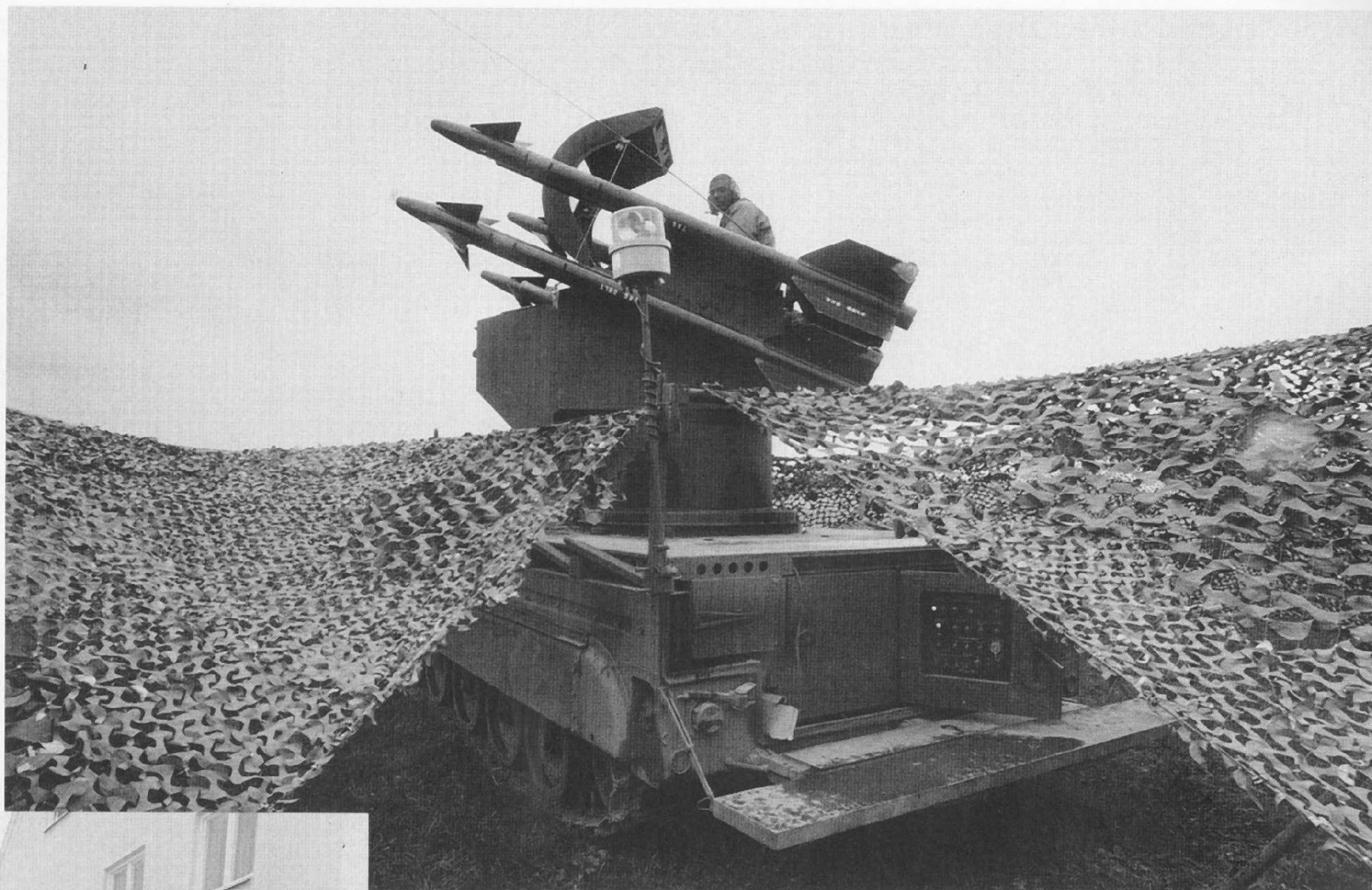
▲ Crew members stand by their disabled vehicle, while one of the crew does what he can in the engine compartment during CERTAIN FURY.

Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.

◀ An M-109 Self Propelled Howitzer sits by the roadside during 1984's exercise CERTAIN FURY.

Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.

An M-730 Chaparral anti-air missile system fully deployed during CERTAIN FURY in 1984. The Chaparral is the army's application of the sidewinder missile in a ground launched version.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



An M-728 Combat Engineer Vehicle (CEV) in a small German village during CERTAIN FURY in 1984. The vehicle used exclusively by engineer units is equipped with a 165mm demolition gun.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



Among the fixed wing air assets available to the U.S. Army during CERTAIN STRIKE was the Mohawk. Equipped with an externally mounted side looking ECM (Electronic Counter Measures) pod, it is useful in the ground surveillance role.

Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



▲ First deployed in REFORGER 87' the AH-64 Apache helicopter is among the newest of the high tech developments to be seen in Europe. This one seen here at a forward site during CERTAIN CHALLENGE in 1988.
Photo: McDONNELL DOUGLAS/DEFENSE IMAGE.

► AH-64A Apache attack helicopter troop commander Capt. Mike Karr describes Apache mission during recent REFORGER exercises. On a single mission during exercise CERTAIN CHALLENGE, a troop of six Apaches is credited with "destroying" 25 tanks and 27 armored personnel carriers.
Photo: McDONNELL DOUGLAS/DEFENSE IMAGE.





AH-64s of the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, Ft. Hood, TX. were deployed to remote locations for daily operations during exercise CERTAIN CHALLENGE.

Photo: McDONNELL DOUGLAS/DEFENSE IMAGE.



Rocket tubes for the MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System) were among the priority cargoes carried by Boeing-built CH-47D Chinook helicopters flown by Company A, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment during CERTAIN CHALLENGE.
Photo: BOEING HELICOPTERS/DEFENSE IMAGE.



Company A, 5th Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment self-deployed from its home base at Schwabisch Hall to a distant field site. The unit's recently acquired Boeing CH-47D Chinooks hastened the move by airlifting the SCAMP - a 15,000 pound crane used for changing helicopter engines, transmissions, and rotor system components.
Photo: Boeing Helicopters/DEFENSE IMAGE.



A U.S. Army 5ton truck undergoes decontamination procedure during CERTAIN CHALLENGE.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



A High Mobility Multi Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) undergoes the decontamination procedure at a rear area decontamination field site during CERTAIN CHALLENGE.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



The decontamination unit donning their protective clothing which is worn over their normally worn MOPP Gear protective clothing, prior to beginning a decontamination procedure, during CERTAIN CHALLENGE.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



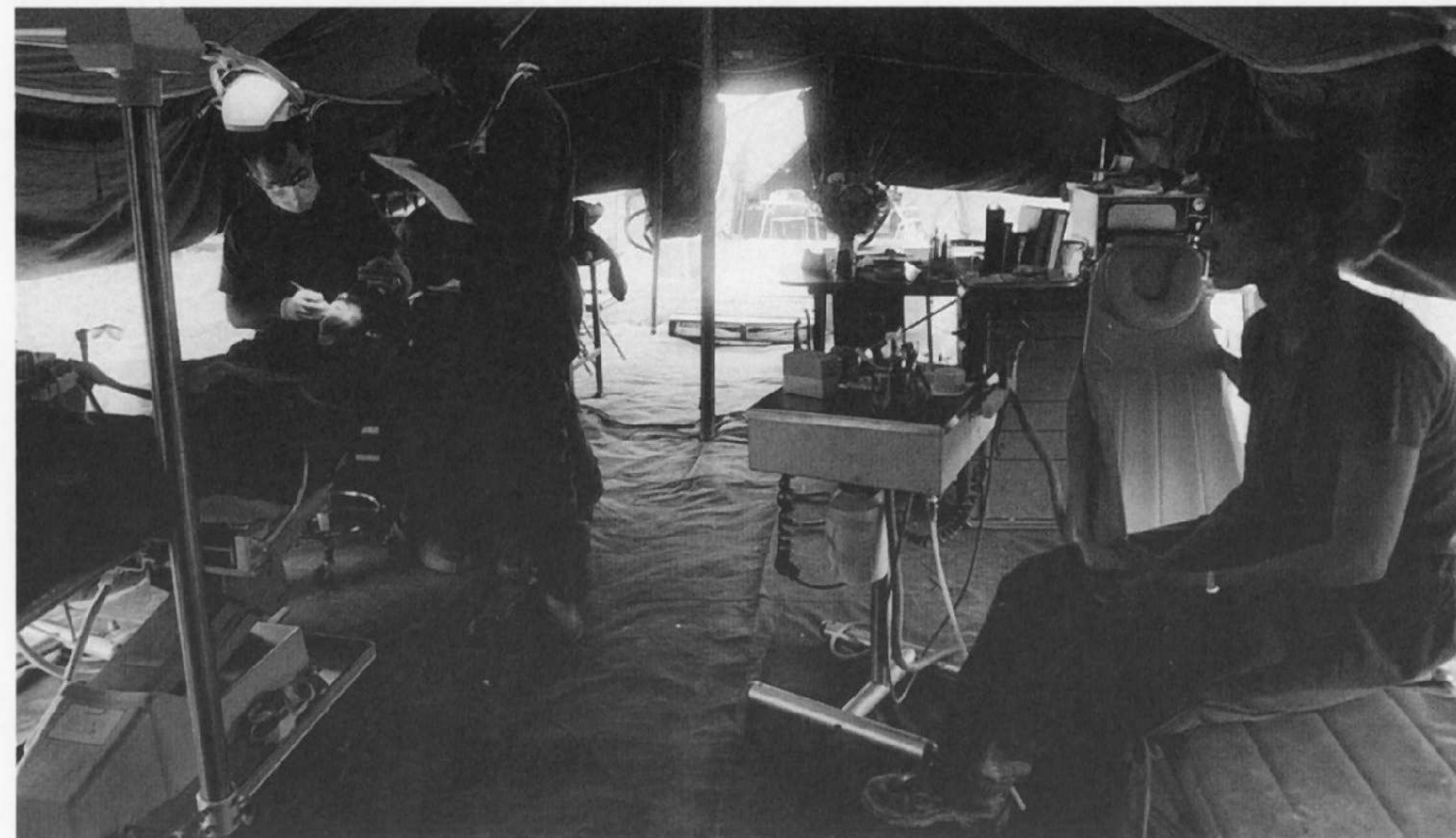
After spraying with hot water the truck is then scrubbed down by hand during the nuclear/chemical warfare decontamination procedure.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



An M-12 Decontamination Unit mounted on the back of a 5-ton truck with trailer in traveling configuration.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



Engineers of the 8th Infantry Division construct a pontoon bridge during the Winter REFORGER of 1985.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.



The dental emergency clinic of the 16th MASH, Ft. Riley, KS. during CERTAIN STRIKE. During any exercise the doctors and dentists of the MASH unit get to perform their skills on a number of real world patients, as well as the simulated battlefield casualties. Here a small number of patients await treatment in the emergency dental clinic.
Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.





General John Galvin, SACEUR (Supreme Allied Commander Europe) commander of all NATO forces in Europe, succeeded General Bernard Rodgers as NATO military commander.
Photo: NATO/DEFENSE IMAGE.



General Galvin visiting troops in the field. General Galvin has a greater visibility than his predecessor.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



▲ Lt. Gen. Crosby Saint during CERTAIN STRIKE, he was the commander of III Corps. He was subsequently promoted and succeeded Gen. Glen K. Otis as commander of U.S. Forces Europe in time for CERTAIN CHALLENGE.

Photo: U.S. Army/DEFENSE IMAGE.



► The Dutch Minister of Defense Dr. W. F. van Eekelen (wearing camouflage smock) one of the many V.I.P. visitors as seen during CERTAIN STRIKE.

Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



▲ Maj. Gen. Franks, one of the numerous V.I.P. personalities, observes an operation during CERTAIN STRIKE, he is accompanied by an aide and an escort from the J.V.B. (Joint Visitors Bureau) identifiable with his J.V.B. Brassard, maps, and two way radio.

Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.

▲► Two unidentified officers (possibly Finnish) pose during CERTAIN CHALLENGE, note the U.S. armor formation behind them.

Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

► An exercise in NATO interoperability the APIC (Allied Press Information Center) staff assembles in formation to hear closing ceremony remarks by General Farndale during CERTAIN STRIKE.

Photo: Arnold Meisner/DEFENSE IMAGE.





▲ A U.S. Army Colonel in helmet talks with two Warsaw Pact members (probably Hungarian) of the CDE Delegation while another U.S. Colonel acting as official escort for the CDE group listens in. CERTAIN CHALLENGE
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

▲► Bulgarian and Hungarian observers during CERTAIN STRIKE.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.

► Of all the groups of visitors to the exercise the one that gets the most attention is the CDE (Comity for the Disarmament of Europe) also known as the Stockholm Delegation named after the treaty signed in Stockholm establishing it. The CDE of Stockholm Delegation is comprised of a number of Field grade Officers from both Warsaw Pact nations, neutral nations and Western nations that tour the exercise area as a group or sub groups observing at close hand the activities of the exercise. Here are some of the members of the CDE Delegation during CERTAIN CHALLENGE.
Photo: APIC/DEFENSE IMAGE.



